

SCREEN SCENE

Video World meanders through the movie world and checks out some future delights in store for you.



ZANDALEE

Thierry (Judge Reinhold) is a New Orleans businessman who, one evening at a stag night, unexpectedly bumps into his old school friend, Johnny (Nicholas Cage) who now spends his spare time painting pictures. The two men renew their friendship and Thierry invites Johnny to dinner. However, when Thierry introduces Johnny to his unusually named wife Zandalee (*Twin Peaks'* Erika Anderson) he feels uneasy. Soon that unease turns to lust as he and Zandalee begin a wild and passionate affair that ultimately leads to tragedy.

Nicholas Cage is the real star of the film and I'm sure that he intended audiences to thoroughly dislike the immoral Johnny but if this was indeed his wish, it is one that is not granted. Johnny is thoughtless and heartless but, unfortunately, he is the type that many men in the audience will identify with and, even more regrettably, want to be like.

Go see *Zandalee* and then think about what your wife gets up to while you are at work.

MERMAIDS

Take three great performers - Cher, Bob Hoskins and Winona Ryder. Add a cute 10-year-old, some 60s music, a dash of sex and a script that has some funny moments and you've got a surefire winner, right? Well, almost but not quite. What you do have is *Mermaids*.

The film is set in 1963, a short while before Kennedy's assassination. Cher is Rachel Flax, the eccentric mother of two daughters, Charlotte, a naive 15-year-old who wants to be a nun (despite being Jewish) and who thinks she is pregnant after a local boy kissed her, and Kate, a ten-year-old swimming champ with a penchant for malapropisms. It isn't long before Mrs Flax becomes romantically involved with Lou Landsky (Hoskins), the local shoe shop owner. The girls quickly take a (shoe) shine to Lou but Mrs Flax's fear of lengthy relationships surfaces and she instinctively pulls back from any kind of commitment. Lou works to persuade Rachel that he would be good for her and the kids and it is about time she looked to her responsibilities and faced Flax!

Cher gives as sturdy performance as we've come to expect but she is overshadowed by Winona Ryder. However, the undoubted star of the film is Christina Ricci, making her movie debut, as Kate. The old showbiz adage is never work with children and animals, perhaps Cher should've taken heed.





SIBLING RIVALRY

Marjorie Turner (Kirstie Alley) and her sister Jeanine (Jami Gertz) are definitely not of the same pod. Jeanine is a new age hippie with a passion for fish, intent on improving her lust for life. Marjorie is a lonely housewife. The in-laws don't help they're all doctors. The after dinner conversation revolves around all things surgical and various methods of child birth. Her husband Harry (Scott Bakula) seems more married to the family practice. Eventually she is driven into the arms of handsome stranger Charles who, unbeknown to her is Harry's brother. They indulge a steamy afternoon sex session of which she is the only survivor! Panicked by his sudden death and the prospect of discovery she scarpers, dropping her wallet on the way. It's found by amiable window blind salesman, Nick

Meany, (Bill Pullman) who drops by then adds insult to injury by accidentally stabbing the body of the deceased whilst installing his product. Nick, believing he has killed Marjorie's husband, arranges to meet her. Between them they conspire to make the death look like suicide to protect both parties, Marjorie

from Henry and Nick from his brother Wilbur who's up for major promotion in the police department. When the 'suicide' is discovered by Charles' family, being doctors, they all want to perform the autopsy, forgetting the family connection. The police are involved but the investigating officer is, yes you've guessed it, Wilbur.

Confused? You will be, especially when Wilbur turns out to be another fish fan!

It provides a few laughs but can't make its mind up between being a slapstick comedy or a tragedy of family life, so it ends up an amusing love story with moralistic overtones.

